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SUBJECT: GREECE CULTIVATING LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE, IMPROVING IPR ENFORCEMENT AND CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR GEORGIA

REF: A. (A) SECSTATE 100093

[¶](#)B. (B) ATHENS 1288

¶1. (SBU) Summary. In a wide-ranging discussion with DCM, MFA Secretary General for International Economic Affairs Theodore Skylakakis emphasized steps he is taking to improve contacts with least-developed countries on climate change. He hopes his efforts will lead to increased coordination, hopefully improving the West's negotiating position in & 54QQ% !\$)%!4%QQ change negotiations. S)Q\$!!!!)1 34Q\$Q1%\$ Q(%)%portance of the ECCC T) his %"baRQQ Ta !)iRdinate a broad range of \$!#"QQ)##!Q\$%!Q!)!Q)Qques with other ministries\$ "!QQ"!)"QQ QQQQ)!QQ!r that he was upbeat on ()1 I@R ! "#2QQQ Group" he (!Q "%!Q\$\$ 5\$\$Q the aegis of his interagency IPR Committee. Lastly, he said Greece, which had already donated more than 750,000 Euros in assistance to Georgia, was planning on committing additional amounts at the upcoming EU Georgia Donor's Conference. End Summary.

"We Need to Convince Them They Do Not Share Climate Change Interests with China and India"

¶12. (SBU) Skylakakis spoke with passion about his interest in climate change, telling the DCM on September 19 that he has taken on the title of "Coordinator for Climate Change Issues" within the MFA. He noted that time was short for negotiating the follow-up to the Kyoto Treaty, and expressed his view that the West had not done enough to cultivate the large number of least-developed countries. "At this point, they almost automatically think they fall into a policy group led by China and India. They do not." Skylakakis explained that, whereas China and India are reaping high growth rates in part as a result of lax environmental policies, the least-developed countries are not. In fact, many of the least-developed countries not only do not see any growth, but are directly endangered by climate change. The West, in Skylakakis' view, has not taken advantage of this to forge a consensus with a significant voting bloc that could be very influential in future climate change negotiations.

¶13. (SBU) Skylakakis pointed to a number of specific agreements the GoG was about to conclude to help achieve his vision. The first was an MOU with the African Union (which in fact was signed by the Foreign Minister September 22). Skylakakis, who is also in charge of Hellenic Aid (Greece's USAID equivalent), said the MOU would incorporate a significant assistance component of approximately 12 million Euros. Secondly, Greece was aiming to sign a similar agreement with Caribbean Community on September 23.

¶14. (SBU) The DCM thanked Skylakakis for his vision and commitment, and agreed on the importance of thinking ahead about the successor to Kyoto. She noted that the USG's

interest in the environment, already strong, was destined only to intensify over the coming months and years. She looked forward to working closely with Skylakakis on the best way forward.

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IPR Working Group on Enforcement
Holds "Positive, Productive" Meeting
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¶5. (SBU) Skylakakis gave a short read-out on IPR. He thanked the DCM for the USG's heightened engagement with Greece on the issue, illustrated by the recent visits of Commerce Department and USTR staff. He acknowledged these individuals' concern about the GoG's Interagency IPR Committee not meeting again until December. What he hoped that Washington-based USG personnel had taken away from their recent visits, however, was the intensive, ongoing preparations for the December meeting. Specifically, he had created a number of lower-level working groups, which were meeting now. The working group on enforcement, for example, had met September 19 and included a wide-range of GoG officials. He proudly noted the group included the Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior as well as the police lieutenant who actually worked IPR on the street. This group had focused on ways to increase the number of raids on the warehouses where IPR contraband was produced and stored. It had also looked at ways to improve the information technology used by Greek judges so that they would know when they were trying repeat offenders. Skylakakis noted that there were a number of other working groups in the process of meeting.

ATHENS 00001350 002 OF 002

One was focusing on the best ways to measure IPR violations in Greece. Skylakakis promised to continue this work and to continue his close cooperation with the Embassy on it.

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GoG Plans to Announce Additional
Commitment to Georgia at EU Donors Conference
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¶6. (SBU) The DCM delivered Ref. A talking points on Georgian assistance. Skylakakis indicated that the GoG is planning to present a pledge of additional bilateral assistance (beyond assistance outlined in Ref B) at the EU donors conference, but is still deliberating on the right amount and type of aid. Skylakakis noted that Greece has a strong record of support for Georgia due to historical ties and the existence of ethnic Greeks throughout Georgia, including in South Ossetia.

SPECKHARD